

United Nations

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Nations Unies

**CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL**

LONDON
E/REF/FACT-FINDING/26
13 May 1946
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DEFINITIONS

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATE OF BRAZIL

I desire to go direct to the objects of paragraph 5 of our plan of work, namely: "to obtain data regarding possibilities of resettlement and, in particular, to ascertain from countries in a position to receive immigrants approximately what numbers - if possible, what proportion of the total - each country was likely to be willing to receive."

But, if you will allow me, I will first take this opportunity of stressing certain general aspects peculiar to Brazil, without, however, departing from the question of the resettlement of refugees and displaced persons. I believe, gentlemen, that Brazil can give material help and efficient co-operation in the solution of that side of the problem with which we are concerned, and help to achieve those humanitarian results which we seek, namely, the relief of the sufferings of all those unfortunate people who prefer to seek a new homeland as a means of escaping the difficulties with which the war has faced them.

Above all, Brazil wishes to receive on her territory a large number of refugees and displaced persons. She fulfils all the requisite conditions: firstly, a territory as large as Europe or as that of our great sister-nation, the United States of America, whose example is our best inspiration; secondly, a country where every climate is found, except the extremes of heat and cold; and finally, a sparse population, which slows up the development of our resources.

In truth, we need to people the vacancies in our vast spaces, which are still under-populated. But in receiving immigrants we must obey the lessons of our experience of over a century, during which, as you are aware, we have already taken in nearly 5,000,000 immigrants - a small figure when one recalls that the United States absorbed more than 40,000,000 during the same period. This experience prompts us, in the first place, to seek elements which can be assimilated to our ethical, economic and social conditions. We do not wish to fall again into the error of admitting, for example, Japanese, who proved incapable of assimilation, not to mention other drawbacks which I have no need to recall. We wish rather to strengthen the European element in our ancestry after making as careful a selection as possible. This is the first condition which must be laid down by Brazil, a new country which has already an honourable and worthy past, but which has a future full of still greater promise. Brazil wishes the newcomers to be able to integrate and assimilate themselves and to blend fully with a nation which is proud of her contribution to western civilization.

In the second place, among those who, of their own free will, wish to join her national community, Brazil has a preference for agriculturists and technicians in general, whom she really needs - agricultural workers of all branches and the industrial technicians who are so necessary for her development. Workers wishing to settle in the towns are not desired in our country.

Brazil is also anxious to protect the national worker against possible competition; but in view of the rise in production, both agricultural and industrial, there is plenty of room for many immigrants by the side of Brazilians, provided that the conditions I have just enumerated are accepted.

In this connection, I should like to give you a few extracts from a speech made a few days ago by our Minister of External Relations, Ambassador Joao Neves, who is also one of the highest authorities on Brazilian problems. In this speech, made to the Council of Immigration and Colonization, M. Joao Neves clearly shows that President Dutra's Government, after the period of restriction imposed by the war, from which Brazil, like other immigration countries, suffered, and which made it necessary to limit the entry of foreign workers, intends to follow a new immigration policy. This immigration policy, which is in course of definition, cannot fail to widen the scope of the help which Brazil can and will give in the solution of this great problem of directing refugees towards the New World.

I shall be very glad to furnish any details and practical information which may be useful to the promotion of our work. Although I am not a technician in the matter, I have assiduously studied these problems for years, and personally I should be happy to make my modest contribution.

I will now read you the document of which I spoke just now, which is written in English.

The State of Sao Paulo, according to this communication of its Secretariat of Agriculture dated October last, is ready to grant first-class arable land to immigrants who possess funds. If they are professional farmers, the cost of the land will be repayable as and when the immigrant is able to earn profits from his work. The Government will undertake to provide him with technical assistance, medical attention and schools for his children. The immigrant farmer may also be given financial assistance. Specialized industrial workers will be assigned work according to their trades and will also receive State assistance, such as a guaranteed salary and regular employment.

The foregoing is the information furnished a little while ago by the Secretariat of Agriculture of Sao Paulo at the Labour Conference which was recently held in Paris.

These, gentlemen, are the details which I can give you of the possibilities and of Brazil's desire to receive a large number of refugees. My country will be gratified to absorb as large a number of them as possible.
